Amendment

Kindly enter the following amendment to the claims:

Please amend claim 1 to read:

1 (currently amended). An apparatus for reducing the percentage of liquid in a liquid and solids mixture comprising:

(a) a holding chamber for receiving a liquid and solids mixture, **the holding chamber having four walls and a floor, and comprising a ramp for vehicular access, wherein the four walls and the floor are comprised of concrete,**

(b) a conduit for directing liquid from the liquid and solids mixture away from said chamber,

(c) a filter separating said conduit from said chamber,

(d) a membrane forming a substantially air-tight seal over said chamber and in substantial contact with the liquid and solids mixture, and

(e) a means for reducing pressure in said conduit;

wherein reduced pressure in said conduit produces a difference in pressure between said chamber and an exterior of said chamber that is substantially evenly distributed across the membrane, drawing liquid from said holding chamber through said filter into said conduit.

2 (original). The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a heating means, wherein said heating means elevates the temperature of the liquid and solids mixture.

3 (original). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said chamber comprises said heating means.

4 (original). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the heating means is disposed within a wall of said chamber.

5 (original). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said heating means is disposed within said membrane.

6 (original). The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising an air injector, wherein said air injector forces air into the mixture.

7 (original). The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said air injector is disposed within said chamber.

8 (original). The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said membrane comprises said air injector.

9 (original). The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a vibrating means for agitating the liquid and solids mixture.

10 (original). The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a moisture collection tank disposed to receive liquid from the liquid and solids mixture through said conduit.

11 (original). The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a moisture holding tank disposed to receive liquid from said moisture collection tank.

12 (original). The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a temperature probe for measuring a temperature of the liquid and solids mixture.

13 (original). The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a thermostat for controlling activation of said heating means.

14 (original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the apparatus is a portable scale model of an industrial size apparatus.

15 (original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said thermostat is set to between about 100°F and 220°F.

16-21 (previously canceled).